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Impact of internet abuse on human relationships

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Young generation spends more and more time using internet and addiction to it seems to be an increasing problem. In the context of social life each addiction, including internet addiction is a destructive attachment, which leads to functional disturbance in relationships with other people, strengthens suffering and loneliness.

The objective of this study was to show influence of the internet overuse on human relationships and displaying network addiction features in young generations.

Out of the group of 100 students 68 daily internet users aged 19 to 24 were examined. An anonymous inquiry containing 28 questions was used. The inquiry was constructed basing on available tests checking internet addiction and authors' observations. Age, sex and place of residence were taken into account as the characteristics of the examined group. The examined population included 10 males and 58 females, 57 of them lived in the cities, 11 of them in the villages.

The results showed that internet overuse is a reason for family conflicts in 50% examinees, due to long term stay on-line young people have problems in learning, work, and family duties, on-line stay above 5 hours a day may be followed by an increased risk of addiction. Prolonged internet use influences reduction of contacts with real friends.

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VIH+ status: indication or contra-indication for liver transplantation?

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VIH+ status: indication or contra-indication for liver transplantation

Background and aims: Since 1996 antiretroviral treatment drastically diminished morbidity and mortality of VIH infected patients. This fact allowed it to include patients with hepatic failure caused by Virus B or C in liver transplantation procedures. We intended to identify psychological factors interfering in the post-transplantation period with the further aim to define criteria for psychological assessment at the pre-transplantation period.

Methods: From 2001 to 2006 we made a psychological investigation with 34 VIH+ patients during their usual pre-transplantation assessment. ICD-10 diagnoses were given after clinical non-structured interviews. Patients' psychosocial situations were also assessed in a non-structured way as well as drug and alcohol consumption was monitored. Patients were followed up during the whole time period.

Results: We found an elevated prevalence of psychopathology among this group of VIH+ transplantation candidates, specially personality disorders, socio-familiar problems and substance abuse.

Conclusions: It is important to include in-depth social and psychological assessment into the routine pre-transplantation procedure in order to preview and to minimize risk situations during the post-transplantation period.

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Does substance abuse significantly risk of relapse after treatment of first episode psychosis despite adherence to medication?

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Objective: To determine if substance abuse significantly increases the risk of relapse in first episode psychosis patients over a two year follow-up even after adherence to medication is improved.

Method: Relapse was based on ratings on the Scale for Assessment of Positive Symptoms and weekly ratings on Life Chart Schedule (WHO). Predictor variables included gender, duration of untreated psychosis (DUP), duration of untreated illness from the time of first psychiatric symptoms (DUI), age of onset, pre-morbid adjustment, co-morbid diagnosis of substance abuse at one year, time to remission of psychotic symptoms and adherence to medication. Univariate analyses were followed by logistic regression for rate of relapse and survival analysis with Cox proportional hazard regression was used for time to relapse as the dependent variable.

Results: Of the 207 patients, 162 achieved remission of positive symptoms and were treated and followed for two years. Relapse rates were relatively low (21.6% in the first and 13.8% in 2nd year, respectively) with 33 weeks as the mean time to relapse. Relapse rates were significantly higher for patients with a co-morbid diagnosis of substance abuse (OR= 2.59, CI 1.28-5.21), especially for the second year (OR=3.66, CI 1.30-10.27) and for those with shorter DUI (OR=0.437, CI 0.209-0.914) after controlling for other predictors. Likelihood of relapse during follow-up was associated only with a co-morbid diagnosis of substance abuse (HR= 2.49, p=.01, CI 1.21-5.10).

Conclusions: Specialized treatment of substance abuse may further reduce risk of relapse even after improving adherence to medication.

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Cognitive impairment expressed in drawings of healthy alcoholics serves as diagnostic and therapeutical instrument

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Background and aims: Detoxified alcoholics often have specific deficit in perceptual capacities, motor performance, memory function and abstracting abilities. To illustrate the clinical observations of cognitive impairment expressed in drawings of alcoholics we used two case vignettes.

Method: Qualitative analysis of form and content of drawings and group protocols were applied. Art group therapy is a part of integrative therapy in Day unit. It involves two steps: 1) drawing by free associations and 2) discussing exhibited drawings in group. The group is open, heterogeneous and meets once a week. The drawings of two healthy, neurological intact, right-handed male alcoholics, aged 36 and 39 years were analysed. They were previously hospitalised because of serious alcohol withdrawal syndrome. There was more than 4 weeks after last drink.